

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 9-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai Shiro of Honda Access Corp (JP 2001-155801).

Per this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 9 and 17.

Specification

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The Examiner submits that the amended title is not descriptive and requests a new descriptive title. Applicants hereby submit a new title to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai Shiro of Honda Access Corp (JP 2001-155801).

Claim 9 recites, in part, ‘wherein the retaining portions and the interconnecting portion are integrated in a single body.’ Claim 17 recites similar elements.

Shiro fails to disclose that the retaining portions and the interconnecting portion are integrated in a single unit, as elements 2 and 103 are separate elements in Drawing 23. Therefore, Shiro cannot anticipate independent claims 9 and 17. These claims are thus

patentable over the applied art. Claims 10-16 and 18-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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